

Amendments to the claims:

1-31 (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A method of treatment or prevention of endothelial dysfunction, which comprises administering to said patient an inhibitor of Gas6 function, wherein said inhibitor of Gas6 function ~~being~~ is a soluble Gas6 receptor.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said endothelial dysfunction is caused by surgery.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein the endothelial dysfunction is caused by endotoxin.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said endothelial dysfunction is a contributory factor to a disorder selected from the group consisting of systemic inflammation, multiple organ failure, diffuse intravascular coagulation, cancer, a cardiovascular disease or a chronic inflammatory disorder.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 32, for the treatment or prevention of sepsis.

37. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, in which said cardiovascular disease is one of artherothrombosis, venuous thromboembolism, arterial

thromboembolism, stroke, arterial stenosis, arterial restenosis, ischemic heart disease, myocardial infarction, diabetic microangiopathy, diabetic macroangioplasty and allograft arteriosclerosis.

38. (previously presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein said chronic inflammatory disorder is rheumatoid arthritis or non healing ulcerations.

39 (withdrawn) A method of treatment or prevention of endothelial dysfunction, which comprises administering to said patient an inhibitor of Gas6 function.

40. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said endothelial dysfunction is a contributory factor to a disorder selected from the group consisting of systemic inflammation, multiple organ failure, diffuse intravascular coagulation, cancer, a cardiovascular disease or a chronic inflammatory disorder.

41. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said inhibitor of Gas6 function is an inhibitor of the Gas6 receptor.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the Gas6 receptor is one of AXL, MER, RSE.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 41, wherein the inhibitor of the Gas6 receptor is a neutralizing antibody to the Gas6 receptor.

44. (withdrawn) The method of claim 39, wherein said inhibitor of Gas6 function is a neutralizing antibody against Gas6.